Funds for modernisation of airports

2833. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India proposes to raise Rs. 3,000 to 4,000 crores to develop the facilities at 25 non-metro airports across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the sources of funding of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India has tentatively selected 25 non-metro airports for modernisation and development to world class standards. Based on the inputs from Financial Consultants and Global Technical Advisor and depending on the need, the projects are to be financed through a variety of financial instruments which would *inter-alia* include retained earnings and debt.

Air-services agreement with Germany

2834. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after US, UK and France, India has finalized Bilateral Air-services agreement with Germany;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement;

(c) the number of flights that fly at present from each country; and

(d) the details of points of call given to Germany and what are the additional points that India would cover in Germany through the new agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An agreement has been reached between India and Germany during the bilateral air services talks between the two countries held on 24-25 May, 2005. The capacity entitlement for the designated airlines of both sides has been enhanced